

Dear families,

The Christmas holiday period is just around the corner and before we break please remember to hand in your child's Enrolment form for 2019 and place their name on the 2019 Enrolment list to indicate your day preference (located next to the sign in/out iPad).

Also, it is with much sadness that I announce my departure from Rainforest as, after 24 years away, I am moving back home to Melbourne. I have been involved here since the day it opened as two of my children attended in the first 5 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed both volunteering as treasurer for the fund raising and working in the office alongside Miss Anna for the last two years. I am going to miss the awesome staff and hearing the children talk, sing and laugh - it has been a pleasure watching them learn and grow. Have an amazing (upcoming) break and until next time, stay awesome!
Signing off, Miss Andrea

Events...

Mon 3rd – Lizard Graduation

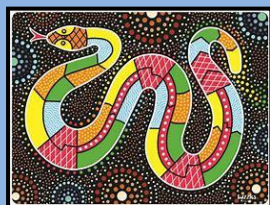
Mon 3rd – Fri 14th – Lunch box fortnight

Fri 21st – Last day for 2018

Mon 7th Jan – First day back at Rainforest

Rainbow Serpent

I'm sure everyone has noticed the growing Rainbow Serpent on our front door. We would like to thank Logan's nana, Lyn, for her truly wonderful and original Aboriginal dot art. We can't wait to see the finished serpent.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Evie G (3 years) 8/12

Liam (5 years) 10/12

Oriana (4 years) 21/12

Elizabeth (3 years) 23/12

Scarlett (5 years) 7/1

Claire (5 years) 8/1

Clover (5 years) 8/1



Birthday photo chart celebrations are displayed behind our front door.

Outcome 2.1 children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities

Travelling with Children

Sometimes travelling with children can be a bit like taking a herd of wild goats on holiday. Whether they're your own or someone else's, factoring a child's needs into your travels involves a lot more than sticking on a CD full of kids music and making toilet stops.

Some ideas to help reduce the stress of travelling with children are:

- Take your time and be flexible – little kids just don't move at the same pace adults do and can tend to get bored easily. That ½ hour bus trip to the see the temple might mean a tantrum once there and the whole family missing the next instalment of the day
- Book ahead – sometimes a room for families can be difficult to come by on the spot and, although we might be up for overnight sleep in car, it may be a totally different story for the kids.
- Give them a camera and/or journal – encourages them to engage in their surroundings and creates a log of memories to share at a later time
- Pack pull-ups for toilet training – sometimes you just can't go to the toilet on the plane when you need to...
- Keep the activities coming – to head off boredom on long car trips have a small handful of games to dish out like puzzle, playdoh, stickers
- Be app-y – generally you just can't take/pack every little toy/book/game so some crayons, coloring book and storybook are great but a device loaded with games and apps helps keep the kids entertained (and you sane).
- Play Car Number Plates Games – for those who can see over the window height, use the passing car number plates to create your own games. eg Make sentences out of the letters, use the first letter to think of a boys/girls/town name etc
- Keep bugs at bay – hand sanitizers and wipes are great to keep in the handbag. Used for washing hands, cleaning toilet seats, and wiping down restaurant tables etc.
- Don't forget the medicine – imagine the middle of the night fever in a uncommon location and not knowing where the doctor or chemist is
- Brand them – if you are going to a location that is going to be very busy, eg zoo, write your mobile number on their arm just in case
- Engage and involve older children - the best way to avoid a soul-destroying sulk from your teenager is to involve them in the planning of the holiday and ask them for input on what they'd like to do.
- Check out supervised childcare - kids' club sounds good, but could mean little more than a bunch of children sitting in front of a TV while an attendant keeps an eye on them. Check how many children are cared for, whether groups are split according to age and what specific activities might be - and be prepared to check it out yourself when you arrive. If anything seems amiss, be prepared to cancel your plans and start looking for alternatives.

For more ideas:

<https://smartraveller.gov.au/guide/Pages/travelling-with-children.aspx>

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/travelling-with-children>

Aboriginal Tools - Boomerangs

The boomerang is a flying tool known for its ability to return to the thrower. It used to be made of wood, but most modern boomerangs are made of other materials.

Most people know that Australian Aborigines used boomerangs for hunting. The boomerangs are often painted or have carved designs on them, related to traditions or legends, and are still used in traditional ceremonies today.

As the Aborigines had a very gender specific culture where the men hunted for meat while the women collected other foods and did a lot of repair work, only men could use the boomerang.

Approximately 60% of Aboriginal people used both returning boomerangs and non-returning throwing sticks – the Central Australian Aboriginal peoples did not use returning boomerangs at all.



Boomerangs were unknown to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory, Tasmania, half of South Australia and the northern parts of Queensland and Western Australia.

The oldest boomerang was found in a cave in Poland and is more than 20,000 years old. This kind of boomerang does not return to the thrower, but it can fly longer distances and is more stable than other things which can be thrown.

Fun Facts:

The largest boomerang was a little bit over 259 cm long.

The longest time in the air for a boomerang is over 2 minutes

https://boomerangshack.com/boomerang_information.htm

<https://aboriginalweapons56.weebly.com/fun-facts.html>

Looking at our Rainforest Community

Australia is the sixth largest country in the world, and located in the Southern hemisphere. It is the smallest continent of the seven world continents and surrounded by the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.



The country is divided into six states (Southern Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania) and two self-governing territories: Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory. The capital city is Canberra.

There are over 25 million people and more than 200 different languages and dialects spoken in Australia including 45 Indigenous languages. The most common non-English languages spoken are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin. More than 80% of Australians live within 100 km of the coast making Australia one of the world's most urbanised coastal dwelling populations.

<https://www.weekendnotes.com/interesting-facts-about-australia/>

The Philippines is made up of 7107 islands and ranges from the south of China to the northernmost tip Borneo. It has a total area of approx 300km and is encircled by the Pacific Ocean and some smaller bodies of water like the South China Sea, the Celebes Ocean the Sulu Sea and the Philippine Sea

The flag has two equal horizontal bands of blue, representing peace and justice, and red, representing courage, and a white equilateral triangle based on the hoist side for equality.



The centre of the triangle contains a yellow sun with 8 rays, each representing one of the first 8 provinces that sought independence from Spain. Each corner of the triangle contains a small, yellow 5-pointed star for the 3 major geographical divisions of the country – Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The flag is used upside down during wartime.

www.travellingthephilippines.com/thephilippines/